# JUMAADI: THE UNACCOUNTED SEA

EDUCATION RESOURCE LEVELS 7 – 10



Art Gallery



# JUMAADI: THE UNACCOUNTED SEA

Jumaadi is an Indonesian/Australian artist who lives both in Sydney and Yoqyakarta, Indonesia. He studied at the National Gallery School and works fluidly across a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, paper cuts, buffalo hide, performance, animation and installation. Jumaadi's Indigenous Javanese heritage informs his practice as well as his personal experiences and the colonial and political histories of his homeland. Recent projects utilise paper cuts as a way of referencing wayang kulit, a traditional form of shadowpuppetry that originated in Java and Bali. With a poetic sensibility and subtle symbolism, Jumaadi weaves together a personal iconography of human and organic motifs to explore universal themes such as love, conflict and belonging. More recently and particularly in this exhibition, Jumaadi's work refers to passages of water and those whose lives depend on it.

### Glossary

**Wayang kulit:** A traditional form of shadow puppetry originally found in the cultures of Java and Bali in Indonesia. The narratives of wayang kulit often tells the story of good vs evil.

**Dalang:** The shadow puppeteer in an Indonesian wayang performance.

**Joli Jolan:** The title of one of the works in the exhibition, Joli Jolan refers to making an exchange, to swap, to trade, to replace.

**Kamasan painting:** Originating in the village of Kamasan, East Bali, Kamasan painting refers to a type of painting on cloth that was used to decorate temples, pavilions and houses of the aristocracy, especially during temple ceremonies and festivals, and depicted scenes from epic religious and mythological stories.

**Figurative:** When referring to art, figurative means representing a human or animal figure. The artist aims to depict recognisable people, animals or mythological creatures.

**Nomad:** A nomad is a person or group of people who move from place to place, often in search of resources such as food, water, or grazing land for their livestock. Nomadic lifestyles have been practiced for thousands of years by various cultures around the world.

**Some information about Indonesia:** An archipelago made up of as many as 17,000 islands, Indonesia is the world's 4th largest country by population and Java, it's most populous island, is home to more than half of the country's 279 million people.

Indonesia has a long history of trading with nearby countries and its rich resources have been highly sort after throughout its history.

Indonesia's colonial history has seen the Indigenous Indonesians suffer some bitter struggles with the country finally attaining independence in 1949.

The country's rich and diverse cultural heritage features music, visual art, textiles such as batik, performances that include dance and shadow puppetry, and attracts curious visitors admirers and from across the globe.

https://www.britannica.com/place/Indonesia/

Cover image:
Detail from Jumaadi, *Joli Jolan* 2022
paper cuts
dimensions variable
©courtesy of the artist and King Street Gallery on William, Sydney

## EXPLORING THE EXHIBITION

The work Joli Jolan occupies one entire wall of the exhibition. 2 Notice how you feel... Find a comfortable spot to sit in front of the work and apply some How are you moved by what the figures are doing, by what they are Slow Looking Techniques: holding or carrying? Do you feel a sense of calm looking at the work? 1 Let your eyes wander across the wall.... Move from paper cut to paper cut and observe what the figures are holding and what they are doing. Try to form some connections between the figures. What do they have in common? How do the figures presented on mass in the work make you feel? What is different about each one? How do you think the life of the artist Jumaadi is reflected in Joli Jolan? What is familiar about the figures? 3 Take a moment to consider the art elements and principles in the work. How has shape been used? What might be strange? How has line been used? How has colour or the lack of colour been used?

## **WORKS IN FOCUS**

Consider and discuss the following as it relates to the works in the exhibition:



Detail from Jumaadi, Joli Jolan 2022 paper cuts dimensions variable ©courtesy of the artist and King Street Gallery on William, Sydney

### Joli Jolan, 2022

Jumaadi began creating *Joli Jolan* during the pandemic periods of lockdown. It features hundreds of intricate paper cut outs (300+) presented on a black wall with each individual cut out telling its own story. In traditional Javanese culture shadow puppetry is a way of telling stories and Jumaadi has referenced this and reversed it through creating white paper cuts on a black background (rather than shadows on a white background). The title *Joli Jolan* means to swap and trade and we see these exchanges happen in a myriad of different ways between humans, animals and nature across this large scale work.

### Activity

Select 1 of the figures in  $\it Jolan \, \it Joli$ 

Describe how the figure appears and any additional objects, animals, plants etc that feature in the paper cut out with the figure.

Describe what the figure is doing, how they are moving, why what they are carrying or dragging or pulling might be significant to them.

Write a short piece from the perspective of the figure.

What might they be thinking or feeling? Where has the figure come from and where might they go next?

Describe a day in the life of the figure.

How do you think Jumaadi's Indonesian and Australian backgrounds are reflected in the work?



Jumaadi, Skak, 2022 synthetic polymer paint on primed unstretched calico ©courtesy of the artist and King Street Gallery on William, Sydney

### Skak, 2022

Skak in Bali Bahasa – the dialect spoken in Bali – means chess and in this work by Jumaadi we can see two figures playing this game.; one is a local Indonesian, and the other is dressed in the uniform of the Dutch colonial army. The type of material Jumaadi has painted this scene on (calico) is a material that has been used in Indonesia to display traditional stories on for hundreds of years. Traditionally, the calico it would be prepared (primed) with a glue made from rice before being painted on with paints sourced from natural materials.

### Activity

Describe the setting that the players are pictured in. Where do you think they are and why?

In this work what is similar about a chess game you might have seen played?

What is different?

Why might Jumaadi have pictured the game of chess in his work in this way? What is the story he is trying to tell us?

Looking at how they are represented in the work, what do you think the relationship between the two figures might be?

Historically, what sorts of natural materials do you think the artists who painted in this way might have used to create their paint?

Describe how Jumaadi has used pattern and colour in the work.

Draw, photograph or create a collage of a game you might play with another person however swap the games equipment, pieces used or controllers for other objects. Eg: replace computer gaming controllers with another household object; replace rackets in a tennis match with equipment from another sport. How does replacing these things change the way we view that game and the players engaged in it?

### Links to the Curriculum

Including but not limited to...

#### **Visual Arts**

#### Level 7 - 10

#### **Explore and Express Ideas**

Explore the visual arts practices and styles as inspiration to develop a personal style, explore, express ideas, concepts and themes in art works

Explore how artists manipulate materials, techniques, technologies and processes to develop and express their intentions in art works.

#### **Respond & Interpret**

Analyse and interpret artworks to explore the different forms of expression, intentions and viewpoints of artists and how they are viewed by audience.

Analyse, interpret and evaluate a range of visual artworks from different cultures, historical and contemporary contexts, including artworks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to explore differing viewpoints.

### Capabilities

### Critical and Creative Thinking

#### Level 7 - 8

#### **Questions and Possibilities**

Synthesise information from multiple sources and use lateral thinking techniques to draw parallels between known and new solutions and ideas when creating original proposals and artefacts.

### **Meta-Cognition**

Consider a range of strategies to represent ideas and explain and justify thinking processes to others.

### Ethical Capability Understanding Concepts

Explore the contested meaning of concepts including freedom, justice, and rights and responsibilities, and the extent they are and should be valued by different individuals and groups.

### Intercultural Capability Cultural Practices

Analyse the dynamic nature of own and others cultural practices in a range of contexts.

Examine how various cultural groups are represented, by whom they are represented, and comment on the purpose and effect of these representations.

### Personal and Social Capability Self-Awareness Management

Describe how and why emotional responses may change in different contexts

### **Relationships and Diversity**

Recognise the impact of personal boundaries, intimacy, distribution of power and social and cultural norms and mores on the ways relationships are expressed.

#### Level 9 - 10

#### Capabilities

#### Critical and Creative Thinking

#### Questions and possibilities

Challenge previously held assumptions and create new links, proposals and artefacts by investigating ideas that provoke shifts in perspectives and cross boundaries to generate ideas and solutions.

#### **Meta-Cognition**

Critically examine their own and others thinking processes and discuss factors that influence thinking, including cognitive biases

### **Ethical Capability**

#### **Understanding Concepts**

Explore a range of ethical problems and examine the extent to which different positions are related to commonly held ethical concepts and principles, considering the influence of cultural norms, religion, world views and philosophical thought.

### Intercultural Capability Cultural Practices

Analyse the complex and dynamic interrelationships between and within cultures in a range of contexts and the impact of these interrelationships on their own and others cultural practices.

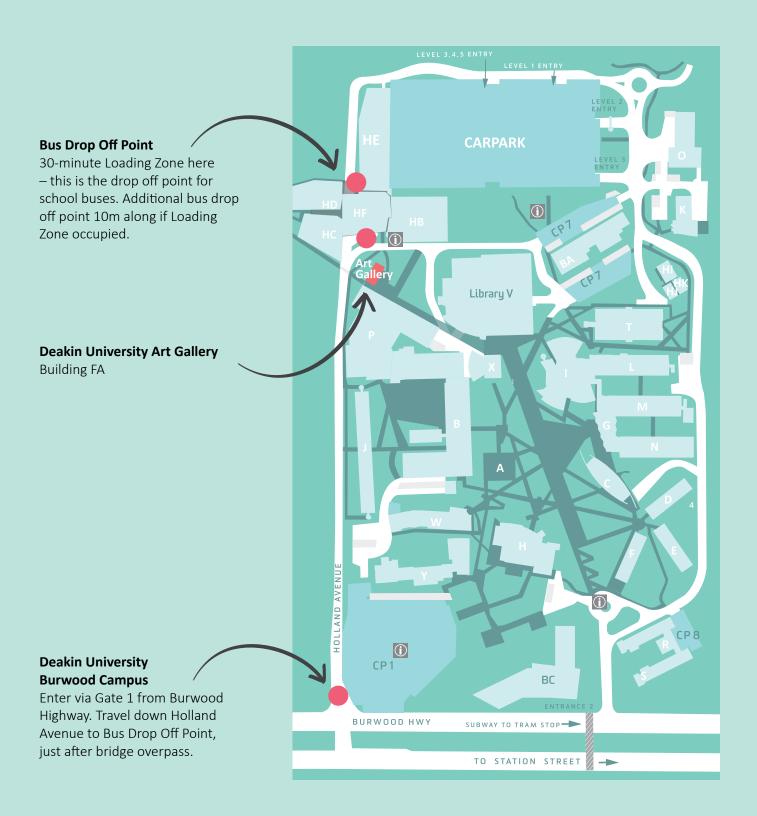
Analyse the ways in which intercultural relationships and experiences have contributed to the development of attitudes, beliefs and behaviours, and how they are manifested in various contexts.

### Personal and Social Capability Self-Awareness Management

Evaluate emotional responses and the management of emotions in a range of contexts.

### **Relationships and Diversity**

Analyse how divergent values and beliefs contribute to different perspectives on social issues.



The Deakin University Art Collection and Galleries Unit offers school tours and hands on workshops for students from F-10 and for VCE Art Making and Exhibiting and Art Creative Practice. To discuss our programs and how we can tailor a program to suit your school's needs, please contact our Education and Public Programs Officer, Tabitha Davies.

### **Education and Public Programs Officer Tabitha Davies**

P: 9244 6519 M: 0491 974 249

E: t.davies@deakin.edu.au

W: School programs | Deakin University Art Gallery

### Deakin University Collection and Art Galleries Building FA

221 Burwood Highway, Burwood 3125

Ph: 9244 5344

E: artgallery@deakin.edu.au

W: Deakin University Art Gallery - Exhibitions and Events



# DEAKIN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Head to our website deakin.edu.au/art-collection/ for information about current exhibitions and keep up-to-date on our activities and exhibitions here:

- **f** Facebook.com/ArtDeakin
- Twitter.com/ArtDeakin
- Instagram.com/deakinartgallery
- a izi.travel Deakin Art Collection and sculpture walk guides

### **STAY IN TOUCH!**

Scan the code to become a gallery subscriber and stay up-to-date with exhibitions, openings and events.



### **SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

For information regarding our School Programs or to book a tour and/ or workshop, please scan here.



Deakin University Art Gallery Building FA, Melbourne Burwood Campus, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood VIC 3125 Enquiries T +61 3 9244 5344 E artgallery@deakin.edu.au Gallery Hours Monday – Friday, 10 am – 4 pm During exhibition periods. Closed public holidays. Free Entry

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which Deakin University stands and pay our respect to Elders: past, present and future.